



The Iowa Afterschool Alliance (IAA) Newsletter is a monthly venue of information and updates on afterschool programs and policies.

For more information, please contact Brooke Findley at bfindley@sppg.com or 515.243.2000.

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Update from the IAA Network Leads

Greetings!

Our last newsletter from June was shortened due to preparations for the 2009 Afterschool Summit: Iowa's New Day for Learning that took place on June 23 and 24 last month. It was a great success! Participants were treated to presentations by Greg Roth of the Institute for a Competitive Workforce (U.S. Chamber of Commerce), Director Judy Jeffrey of the Iowa Department of Education, Director Elisabeth Buck of Iowa Workforce Development, and Laura Harris of the National Governors Association, as well as two panel discussions with representatives from a number of statewide out-of-school time organizations, education, workforce, public safety, and afterschool programs.

We truly would like to thank the individuals and organizations that participated and presented at the Summit. The Iowa Afterschool Alliance has recently submitted a proposal for another three-year grant from the C.S. Mott Foundation to undertake two regional pilots across the state. The project has been approved and now strategic partnerships are being developed and financial and in-kind support secured. These pilots will seek to connect middle and high school youth with opportunities for career development and workforce-readiness utilizing connections between the school and community college campuses. The discussions from the Summit will inform the direction of the planning for these pilots.

Thanks to everyone who participated – your passion and commitment to afterschool and the success of Iowa’s youth are so vital to what we do!

Sincerely,

Brooke Findley and Michelle Rich
Iowa Afterschool Alliance Network Coordinators



Mark Your Calendar

Lights On Afterschool, October 22, 2009 Nationwide

Lights On Afterschool will be celebrated nationwide on Thursday, October 22 this year. This event helps raise awareness of the importance of afterschool to our youth, families, and communities. Local programs can hold their own event, or think about partnering with other organizations, the school, or city. For resources on celebrating Lights On Afterschool in your program or community, please visit the [Afterschool Alliance website](#). The Iowa Afterschool Alliance can help plan your event, as well. If you have questions or would like to share your ideas with us, please contact Michelle Rich at mrich@sppg.com or 515-243-2000.

Every Child Matters’ Step Up for Kids, October 5-9, 2009

Due to the success of last year’s events for Step Up for Kids, Every Child Matters will host a week-long event marking this year’s Step Up for Kids. For more information, please contact Tom LaPointe of Every Child Matters at tlapointe@everychildmatters.org. For more information on Every Child Matters Iowa, please visit their website at www.everychildmatters.org.

Iowa Joins 49 States in Common Core Standards Initiative

Iowa has signed on to participate in the Common Core Standards Initiative jointly led by the National Governors Association (NGA) Center for Best Practices and the National Council of Chief State School Officers (NCCSSO). The state-led process seeks to develop common English-language arts and mathematics standards that states can then voluntarily adopt. Director Judy Jeffrey of the Iowa Department of Education notes: “Iowa is fortunate to have not only state core content standards, but also the Iowa Core Curriculum, which provides rigorous expectations for all students and gives teachers the tools to change teaching and learning in this state...With our recently passed Iowa Core Curriculum, Iowa can easily incorporate national standards because the Core Curriculum provides more explicit guidance to reach high expectations.”

For more information on the Common Core Standards Initiative, please visit the following sites:

[The Iowa Department of Education](#)

[National Governors Association Center for Best Practices](#)

[National Council of Chief State School Officers](#)

The After School Corporation Releases New Article on Science in Afterschool Programs

[The following is an excerpt from The After School Corporation website] The good news is that nearly 9 out of 10 after-school programs are trying to get kids more involved in science and technology. They're infusing STEM projects (science, technology, engineering and math) into their programs. But too few leaders know about the growing universe of available resources: enticing curriculum, opportunities to train staff, tools to test their progress. The bottom line is that access to high-quality after-school science curriculum and staff training has yet to catch up to interest.

But that's changing. At an elementary school in Harlem, kids are learning about volume, cohesion and air tension from blowing bubbles bigger than their heads. And where there was once a patch of weeds, kids seized with a passion for conservation have become urban planters.

For the full article, please visit [The After school Corporation website](#).

July 6 Proclaimed National Summer Learning Day by President Obama

On July 6, 2009, President Barack Obama proclaimed the day "National Summer Learning Day" by Presidential Proclamation. The following is an excerpt from the proclamation:

"Like an athlete out of practice, a child who takes long breaks from learning can face academic setbacks. This problem is especially prominent during the summer, when students may lose more than two months of progress. Children must remain engaged to maintain and build upon their current academic achievement... Even though summer has arrived, student learning needs do not take a vacation. On Summer Learning Day, we highlight the need for more young people to be challenged during their time off from school. We also express support for local programs, communities, and families that help children grow through learning initiatives. Working together, we can help students remain engaged and return to school with lithe and limber minds."

For the full text of the proclamation and for more resources on summer learning, please visit the [National Center for Summer Learning website](#).

2009 Afterschool Summit: Iowa's New Day for Learning an Astounding Success!

On June 23 and 24, a number of afterschool, workforce, education, and youth development stakeholders convened in Johnston, Iowa, for a two-day summit aimed at developing a plan for how best to meet the diverse needs of today's students. Summit participants were treated to presentations from national and state leaders from workforce, education, and business, including Greg Roth of the Institute for a Competitive Workforce (U.S. Chamber of Commerce), Director Judy Jeffrey of the Iowa Department of Education, Director Elisabeth Buck of Iowa Workforce Development, and Laura Harris of the National Governors Association. Additionally, two panel discussions focused on education and workforce brought in state experts on afterschool programming, school administration, career preparation, workforce programs, and public safety, to name just a few.



The Iowa Afterschool Alliance plans to follow up the summit with a release of Summit Proceedings. In the meantime, all presentations and handouts from the Summit can be found on the [Iowa Afterschool Alliance's website](#). Check back from time to time to find additional resources related to many of the topics discussed at the Summit.



We welcome your feedback! Please contact [Brooke Findley](#) or [Michelle Rich](#) with any questions or comments related to the Summit.

Upcoming Professional Development, Events, and Funding Opportunities

Afterschool Resources Website Offers Valuable Suggestions for Financing Afterschool Programs

The Afterschool Resources website, found via URL www.afterschoolresources.org, offers afterschool programs numerous resources on programming, advocacy, curriculum, and financing. The section of the site on financing provides detailed information on specific grants, as well as strategies for ensuring program sustainability and leveraging current funding. [Click here](#) for the financing directory of the site.

Check Out IAA's Facebook Page!

IAA has recently created a Facebook page. Through our page, you can find the latest information and updates regarding IAA and its activities, as well as links to relevant resources and funding opportunities. To search for the IAA page, just type the Iowa Afterschool Alliance on the search box at www.facebook.com. However, please continue to visit the IAA website for the listing of all resources at www.iowaafterschoolalliance.org.

Reminder

As we continue our work in promoting afterschool programs, below are words from a famous American to remind us why we do the work we do.

"A child is a person who is going to carry on whatever you have started. He is going to sit where you are sitting and when you are gone, attend to those things which you think are important. You may adopt all the policies you please, but how they will be carried out depends on him. He will assume control of your cities, states, and nations. He is going to move in and take over your churches, schools, universities, and corporations. Your books are going to be judged, accepted, or condemned by him. The fate of humanity is in his hands. So it might be well to pay him some attention."

- Abraham Lincoln